

Appl. No.: 10/053,954

Amdt. Date: September 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2004

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A process for controlling a system that provides conditioned air to a plurality of locations, said process comprising the steps of:

providing for the entry of at least one level of comfort in a plurality of data entry devices at each location;

collecting information as to the levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices at each location;

determining the overall level of comfort for a particular grouping of data entry devices from the collected information as to the levels of comfort entered at the particular grouping of data entry devices; and

transmitting an indication as to the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices to the system that provides conditioned air to the plurality of locations, whereby the provision of conditioned air to the location of the particular grouping of data entry devices is modified when at least one particular indication of overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices is received.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said step of providing for the entry of at least one level of comfort in a plurality of data entry devices comprises the steps of:

generating a menu of different comfort levels that may be selected at each data entry device; and

storing at least one comfort level that is selected in the data entry device.

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3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said step of collecting information as to the levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices at each location comprises the step of:

collecting information as to the levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices by the particular location in which the levels of comfort were entered whereby the overall level of comfort for a particular grouping of data entry devices is determined with respect to the collected information at the particular location.

4. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein each data entry device is a personal computer.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for a particular grouping of data entry devices comprises the steps of:

computing an overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices;

determining whether the computed level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices exceeds a threshold value for assigning a particular overall level of comfort; and

assigning the particular level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices when the computed level of comfort exceeds the threshold value .

6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 5 wherein the information as to the levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices at each location comprises numerical values indicative of the of levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices and wherein said step of computing an overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices includes the step of:

summing the numerical values indicative of the of levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices within the particular grouping of data entry devices.

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7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein [each] the particular grouping of data entry devices is provided with a unique identifier and wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices comprises the step of:

computing an overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices as a function of the information collected as to the levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices having the unique identifier for the particular grouping of data entry devices.

8. (Original) The process of claim 7 wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices further comprises the step of:

determining whether the computed overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices exceeds a threshold value for assigning a particular level of comfort; and

assigning the particular level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices when the computed level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 8 wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for [each] the particular grouping of data entry devices further comprises the step of:

storing the computed overall level of comfort in association with the unique identifier for the particular grouping of data entry devices.

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10. (Currently Amended) A system for providing conditioned air to at least one location, said system comprising:

a plurality of data entry devices at the location, each data entry device being operative to provide for the selection of at least one level of comfort at the location;

at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices, said computer being operative to collect information as to the selections of comfort level entered at the data entry devices and being furthermore operative to determine an overall level of comfort for the location from only the collected information as to the selections of comfort level entered at the data entry devices; and

at least one HVAC control being operative to control the provision of conditioned air to the location in response to the [determination of an] determined overall level of comfort for the location.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein each data entry device is operative to generate a menu of different comfort levels that may be selected and entered at each data entry device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein each data entry device is operative to store the entry of a particular comfort level from among the different comfort levels in the menu.

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13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein each data entry device is operative to provide the stored entry of a particular comfort level to the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine an overall level of comfort for the location by computing an overall level of comfort as a function of the entered comfort levels.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine whether the computed overall level of comfort as a function of the entered comfort levels exceeds a threshold value whereby a particular overall level of comfort is assigned when the computed overall level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine an overall level of comfort for the location by computing an overall level of comfort as a function of the selected comfort levels.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the at least one computer is operative to determine whether the computed overall level of comfort as a function of the selected comfort levels exceeds a threshold value whereby a particular overall level of comfort is assigned when the computed overall level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the information as to the selections of level of comfort entered at the data entry devices at [each] the location comprises numerical values indicative of the of levels of comfort entered at the data

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entry devices and wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative determine an overall level of comfort for the location by summing the numerical values indicative of the of levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices [within the particular grouping of data entry devices].

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the data entry devices is operative to determine whether the computed overall level of comfort as a function of the entered comfort levels exceeds a threshold value whereby a particular overall level of comfort is assigned when the computed overall level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.

20. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein each data entry device is a personal computer.

21. (Original) A system for providing conditioned air to a plurality of locations, said system comprising:

- a plurality of data entry devices at each location, each data entry device being operative to provide for the selection of at least one level of comfort;

- at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices, said computer being operative to collect information as to the selections of comfort level entered at the data entry devices and being furthermore operative to determine particular overall levels of comfort for each location from the collected information; and

- at least one HVAC control being operative to control the provision of conditioned air to each location in response to the determination of an overall level of comfort for the location.

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22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein each data entry device is operative to generate a menu of different comfort levels that may be selected and entered at each data entry device.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein each data entry device is operative to store the entry of a particular comfort level from among the different comfort levels in the menu.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein each data entry device is operative to provide the stored entry of a particular comfort level to the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine an overall level of comfort for each location by computing an overall level of comfort as a function of the entered comfort levels for the particular location.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine whether the computed overall level of comfort as a function of the entered comfort levels for the particular location exceeds a threshold value whereby a particular overall level of comfort is assigned for the particular location when the computed overall level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the information as to the selections of level of comfort entered at the data entry devices at each location comprises numerical values indicative of the of levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices and wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine an overall level of comfort for

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each location by summing the numerical values indicative of the of levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices within the particular location.

28. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein each data entry device is a personal computer.

29. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the particular grouping of data entry devices are at a particular location from among the plurality of locations.

30. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the data entry devices at each location are provided with a unique identifier for that location and wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices comprises the step of:

computing an overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices as a function of the information collected as to the levels of comfort entered at data entry devices having a unique identifier for a particular location.

31. (New) The process of claim 31 wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices further comprises the step of:

determining whether the computed overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices exceeds a threshold value for assigning a particular level of comfort; and

assigning the particular level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices when the computed level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.

32. (New) The process of claim 32 wherein said step of determining the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices further comprises the step of:

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storing the computed overall level of comfort in association with the unique identifier for the particular grouping of data entry devices.

33. (New) The system of claim 21 wherein the data entry devices at each location are provided with a unique identifier for that location and wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine the overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices by computing an overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices as a function of the information collected as to the levels of comfort entered at the data entry devices having the unique identifier for the particular location .

34. (New) The system of claim 33 wherein the at least one computer in communication with the plurality of data entry devices is operative to determine whether the computed overall level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices exceeds a threshold value for assigning a particular level of comfort; and to thereafter assign the particular level of comfort for the particular grouping of data entry devices when the computed level of comfort exceeds the threshold value.